01372

1975/04/05

73-74

PRIORITY

65

0505302 APR 75 RESTRICTED HANDLING

CITE

TO: PRIORITY HEADQUARTERS.

REF: HEADQUARTERS

MR. COLBY FROM COS

1. AGREE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT WITH YOUR VIEWS IN REF.

2. IT HAS OF COURSE BEEN CONSTANT STATION AND EMBASSY POLICY TO MAKE EXPLICITLY CLEAR TO ALL CONCERNED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN PARTICULAR WILL NOT SUPPORT ANY COUP OR OTHER UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WE HAVE ALSO STATED SPECIFICALLY TO SEVERAL POTENTIAL COUP PLANNERS, INCLUDING [Deleted] THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THIEU ALONG THE LINES OF THE 1963 EXPERIENCE WOULD BE JUST ABOUT THE SUREST WAY TO GUARANTEE A COMPLETE AND IMMEDIATE END TO AMERICAN SUPPORT AND THAT A COUP WOULD RESULT IN MILITARY DISSENSION AND CHAOS AS WELL AS FATAL WEAKENING OF ANY PROSPECTS OF EFFECTIVE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS.

3. ACTUALLY, NGUYEN CAO KY FOR EXAMPLE HAS BEEN MAKING ALL THE RIGHT NOISES. HE HAS STATED PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY - THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION TO MOUNTING OR PARTICIPATING IN ANY COUP. [True - Lines deleted]

HE HAS INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF AND OTHERS OF HIS ACTIVITIES. WE SENSE A CONSENSUS IN THE HIGHER LEVELS OF THE ARMY AGAINST ANY COUP ATTEMPTS, AND WHILE THERE IS A CONTINUING AND GROWING MOMENTUM IN FAVOR OF NEW LEADERSHIP THERE ALSO SEEMS TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE CHANGE SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.